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ORIGIN PA-04

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 RSC-01 SS-20 SSO-00 ISO-00 PRS-01 EUR-25

USIE-00 INR-10 NSC-07 NSCE-00 INRE-00 /069 R

DRAFTED BY PA: CPRENTICE:LD

APPROVED BY PA: CPRENTICE

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DESIRED DISTRIBUTION

PA, S/S, S/PRS, EUR

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UNCLAS STATE 060347

TOSEC 64

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF ARTICLE BY JAMES S. KEAT APPEARING
FRONT PAGE BALTIMORE SUN OF MARCH 25, 1974.

KISSINGER'S 1ST 6 MONTHS: SUPERSTAR OF STATE SHINES ON.

2. HENRY A. KISSINGER IS STILL A ONE-MAN BAND.

3. SIX MONTH'S AFTER BECOMING SECRETARY OF STATE, DR.
KISSINGER IS MORE CONSPICUOUS AND, IF ANYTHING, MORE
SUCCESSFUL, THAN EVER. FOR ALL HIS TALK OF
"INSTITUTIONALIZING" FOREIGN POLICY IN HIS NEW ROLE, HIS
PERSONAL STAR SHINES AS BRIGHTLY AT FOGGY BOTTOM AS IT DID
IN THE WHITE HOUSE.

4. THE QUESTION OF WHETHER DR. KISSINGER CAN EVER SUB-
MERGE HIMSELF IN THE OLD-LINE FOREIGN POLICY MACHINERY,
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DISSIPATING THE NOTION THAT IT IS AN INDIVIDUAL TOUR DE

FORCE, REMAINS UNANSWERED. WHETHER DR. KISSINGER SINCERELY MEANT TO TRY, OR IS CAPABLE OF TRYING, CAN AT THIS POINT ONLY DRAW THE SCOTCH VERDICT NOT PROVEN.

5. DR. KISSINGER'S FIRST SIX MONTHS IN OFFICE - HE WAS SWORN IN SEPTEMBER 22, 1973 - HAS BEEN AN EXTRAORDINARY

PERIOD, MORE SUITED TO HIS PENCHANT FOR PERSONAL DIPLOMACY THAN FOR THE SORT OF BUREAUCRATIC REGIME HE FORECAST FOR HIMSELF LAST FALL.

6. TWO WEEKS TO THE DAY AFTER HE ASSUMED OFFICE AS THE NATION'S FIRST FOREIGN-BORN SECRETARY OF STATE, THE MID-EAST WAR ERUPTED. SINCE THEN IT HAS DOMINATED HIS DAYS, OVERSHADOWING AND EVEN IMPERILING HIS PAINSTAKING EFFORTS IN THE FOUR PREVIOUS YEARS AT BUILDING WHAT HE AND HIS CHIEF, PRESIDENT NIXON, LIKE TO CALL A "STRUCTURE OF PEACE.

7. RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION, WHICH HAD PROGRESSED TO THE POINT LAST JUNE THAT A SUMMIT MEETING TOOK ON SOME OF THE ATMOSPHERE OF A COLLEGE REUNION, NOW HAVE A SOUR NOTE. THE RAPID PACE OF NORMALIZING RELATIONS WITH CHINA APPEARS TO HAVE SLOWED. THE NORTH ATLANTIC ALLIANCE, WHICH DR. KISSINGER INSISTS IS STILL THE "CORNERSTONE" OF UNITED STATES FOREIGN POLICY IS SEVERLY STRAINED.

8. FOR ALL THAT, DR. KISSINGER'S IMAGE IS STILL THAT OF THE SUPERSTAR. IN PART THAT IS BECAUSE HE IS THE ONLY SURVIVING ORNAMENT OF A DISCREDITED ADMINISTRATION, THOUGH HE YET MIGHT WELL BE SOMEWHAT TARNISHED IN THE BACKWASH OF WATER-GATE. BUT MOSTLY IT IS DUE TO HIS ASTONISHING PERFORMANCE IN DEFUSING THE MIDEAST CRISIS.

9. HIS DETRACTORS CONDEMN HIS STYLE OF PERSONAL DIPLOMACY AS THEATRICAL, AND THEY ARE CORRECT. THERE ARE NO MORE SECRET TRIPS TO PEKING OR PARIS TO BE SPRUNG ON A STARTLED WORLD.

10. BUT HE IS STILL CAPABLE OF LEAVING A BANQUET WITH THE CHINESE AMBASSADOR HERE AND, TWO HOURS LATER, TAKING UNCLASSIFIED

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OFF ON AN UNHERALDED FLIGHT TO MOSCOW TO ARRANGE A MID-EAST CEASEFIRE. HIS FOUR TRIPS THROUGH THE MIDDLE EAST - ONE A MONTH SINCE NOVEMBER - HAVE BEEN HIGHLY PUBLICIZED BUT STILL CONSPICUOUS EXAMPLES OF DIPLOMATIC LEGERDEMAIN.

11. BUT IT CAN FAIRLY BE ARGUED THAT THE SPOTLIGHT HAS NOT BEEN FORCED ON DR. KISSINGER. HE STILL RELISHES IT; IT IS DOUBTFUL HE COULD HAVE AVOIDED IT.

12. WHEN THE SOVIET LEADERS WERE FINALLY READY TO DISCUSS ARRANGING A MIDEAST CEASE-FIRE LEONID I. BREZHNEV, THE SOVIET PARTY CHIEF, ASKED FOR DR. KISSINGER IN PERSON. SO TOO HAVE THE ARAB LEADERS. HIS MOST RECENT (AND PERHAPS RELUCTANT) MIDEAST TRIP WAS REQUESTED BY AN ARAB LEADER, REGARDED HERE AS A RADICAL, WHO WROTE MR. NIXON THAT ONLY DR. KISSINGER COULD "COOL OFF" THE SITUATION.

13. WHATEVER CRITICISM AND MISTRUST LINGERS IN THIS COUNTRY ABOUT DR. KISSINGER'S ROLE IN NEGOTIATING THE END OF THE U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN VIETNAM, HE HAS ACQUIRED AN AURA OF INFALLIBILITY ABROAD, EXCEPT, NOTABLY, IN WESTERN EUROPE. IN THE ARAB WORLD PARTICULARLY, HE IS ACCEPTED BY REALISTS AS AN HONEST BROKER WHO CAN DELIVER THE GOODS, BY ROMANTICS AS A DIPLOMATIC MAGICIAN. NO STRANGER SINCE RALPH BUNCHE 25 YEARS AGO HAS BEEN SO ACCEPTED THERE.

14. STILL, AS DR. KISSINGER HIMSELF HAS OBSERVED, FOREIGN POLICY CANNOT ALWAYS BE CONDUCTED IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF CRISIS BY A SINGLE STAR "NOW WE NEED TO BUILD ON THESE FOUNDATIONS A MORE PERMANENT STRUCTURE THAT WE CAN PASS ON TO SUCCEEDING ADMINISTRATIONS," HE TOLD THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE AT HIS CONFIRMATION HEARING LAST SEPTEMBER.

15. "DURABILITY IN FOREIGN POLICY IS ACHIEVED IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS THROUGH THE DEEP AND CONTINUING INVOLVEMENT OF THE DEDICATED PROFESSIONALS OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND FOREIGN SERVICE."

16. HERE THERE IS AMPLE ROOM FOR ARGUMENT ABOUT DR. KISSINGER'S ACHIEVEMENT IN THE PAST SIX MONTHS. HE HAS MADE MANY UNCLASSIFIED

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CHANGES IN KEY PERSONNEL AT THE DEPARTMENT AND BROUGHT IN SOME TALENTED OUTSIDERS, INCLUDING SEVERAL CLOSE AIDES FROM HIS WHITE HOUSE STAFF. WHETHER HE HAS KEPT HIS PLEDGE TO "INFUSE THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE WITH A SENSE OF PARTICIPATION, INTELLECTUAL EXCITEMENT AND MISSION" REMAINS TO BE SEEN.

17. THOSE ASPECTS OF FOREIGN POLICY HE IS PERSONALLY CONCERNED WITH ARE CLOSELY HELD BY THE SMALL CIRCLE GATHERED AROUND HIS SEVENTH-FLOOR OFFICE. SOME OF THE REGIONAL ASSISTANT SECRETARIES ARE BROUGHT IN WHEN THE PROBLEM INVOLVES DEALING WITH SEVERAL OTHER NATIONS, BUT THE PRIORITY TOPICS LIKE THE MIDDLE EAST, SOVIET UNION AND CHINA ARE RESTRICTED TO THE TRUSTED FEW.

18. DESPITE REPEATED AND PRIVATE DECLARATIONS TO THE CONTRARY, DR. KISSINGER HAS SHOWN NO MORE READINESS TO DELEGATE RESPONSIBILITY TO SUBORDINATES THAN HE DID IN HIS 4 1/2 YEARS AS PRESIDENT NIXON'S NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER.

19. HIS AIDES HAVE A FULL SUPPLY OF ANECDOTES ABOUT DR. KISSINGER'S COMPLAINTS THAT THEY ARE BOTHERING HIM WITH TRIVIA. "TAKE CARE OF THAT YOURSELF," HE TELLS A SUBORDINATE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE060347
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: CPRENTICE:LD
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740065-0567
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740313/aaaaamns.tel
Line Count: 173
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN PA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 JUL 2002 by elbezefj>; APPROVED <12 DEC 2002 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS MATERIAL
TAGS: OVIP, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: MOSCOW
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005